

APPLICATION FOR
UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

SPECIFICATION

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, Gerardo Melendrez, a citizen of the United States of America, and resident of the State of California, having a postal address of 4216 Milburn Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90063, have invented a new and useful "**BODY DRYER**", of which the following forms the specification.

BODY DRYER

CROSS REFERENCED TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation-in-part of application number 10/409,824 filed on April 9, 2003.

5 **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

1. Technical Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a body dryer for complementing a hand towel to more easily and efficiently dry a bather's body.

2. Description of the Prior Art

10 Bathers and swimmers typically dry with a towel. However, because not all areas of the body are readily accessible with a towel, the bather is rarely able to completely dry off. Accordingly, the bather may still be wet when dressing which is unpleasant. Furthermore, exiting a shower or bathtub during the winter months is always extremely uncomfortable.

15 Finally, overweight people and those with certain physical disabilities cannot reach certain areas of the body such as the feet or toes. Accordingly, drying such areas with a towel is not possible. The present invention addresses these problems by providing a uniquely designed body dryer that directs heated air toward a user. By using the device in conjunction with a towel, a bather can

quickly and completely dry all areas of the bather's body. The device also directs hot air to otherwise inaccessible areas of the body such as between the toes. Furthermore, the device heats ambient air thereby removing moisture from bathroom surfaces such as mirrors, floors and counter tops; the device also 5 immediately directs hot air toward a bather so as to eliminate the initial discomfort associated with exiting a shower or bathtub.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a body dryer. The device is designed primarily to rest on the floor or a similar supporting surface and includes a 10 housing having a plurality of adjustable vents on the front surface thereof. A fan and plurality of heaters are positioned within the housing interior. When the device is activated, heated air is projected through the vents to the atmosphere.

The housing is pivotally mounted on a support stand allowing the angular orientation of the housing to be selectively varied, if desired.

15 It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a body dryer that significantly enhances the use of a hand towel.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a body dryer having a selectively variable heating means.

It is yet another object of the present invention to provide a body dryer that

is capable of selectively directing multiple streams of heated air to the atmosphere.

Other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become readily apparent from the following detailed description of the preferred embodiment when considered with the attached drawings and the appended claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the body dryer according to the present invention.

Figure 2 is a rear view of the body dryer according to the present invention.

10 Figure 3 is a side view of the hot air blower assembly.

Figure 4 is a side view of a louver assembly associated with the air vents of the present invention.

Figure 5 is a front view of the louver assembly depicted in Figure 3.

15 Figure 6 is a circuit diagram of the various electronics associated with the hot air blower assembly.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring now to Figures 1 through 6, the present invention relates to a body dryer. The device comprises a substantially hollow housing **1** having a top end **2**, a bottom end **3**, a front wall **4**, a rear wall **5** and two side walls **6**. The

housing also includes an interior compartment having a hot air blower assembly received therein.

The hot air blower assembly includes a squirrel cage type fan **7** that is operated by an AC motor **8**. The fan includes an air outlet with a plurality of 5 heaters **9** adjacent thereto. In the preferred embodiment, there are three heaters though the number can be varied. An electrical cord **36** for coupling with a conventional AC electrical receptacle provides power to the motor and heaters.

The front wall of the housing is convex and includes of plurality of air vents **10** positioned thereon. Preferably, there are three vents: one **10A** for projecting 10 heated air upwardly, another **10B** for projecting air straight ahead and the third **10C** for projecting air downwardly. However, the number of vents can be varied.

Each vent includes a plurality of pivotal louvers **11** positioned therein. The direction of the louvers may be selectively adjusted with a rotatable dial **12** that protrudes through a slot **13** on the front wall of the housing, immediately adjacent 15 the vent. As depicted in Figures 4 and 5, each louver includes a pair of opposing side edges each of which are pivotally connected to the housing. Each louver further includes a rear edge pivotally connected to a link **15**. Each vent adjustment dial is fixedly attached to the link whereby rotation of the dial results in simultaneous upward or downward pivoting of the louvers. Air intake vents **31**

are positioned on the rear wall of the housing for supplying fresh ambient air to the hot air blower assembly.

On the top wall of the housing is a handle **17** which may be grasped when the user is relocating the body dryer. Immediately adjacent the handle are a 5 plurality of switches **18, 19, 20** that control the operation of the hot air blower assembly. A first switch **18** activates the assembly. A second switch **19** controls the heat intensity generated by the hot air blower assembly when activated. For example, depressing the switch a first time will activate one of the internal heaters. Depressing the switch a second time will also activate a second heater while 10 depressing it a third time will result in all three heaters being activated. Depressing the switch a fourth time disables all heaters for directing ambient air to a user if desired, such as when the device is being used in warmer climates. The third switch **20** enables and disables the blower assembly. As depicted in Figure 6, a microprocessor **35** is electrically connected to the heater control switch for 15 controlling the operation of the heaters as described above. Also, the device includes an internally disposed gravity switch **21** for disabling electrical power to the heaters and blower in the event that the housing is inadvertently overturned.

The housing is uprightly supported by a weighted stand **22** allowing it to be placed on a flat surface such as the floor or counter top. The stand includes a

horizontal planar base portion **23** with a pair of mounting arms **24** vertically extending therefrom. A distal end of each arm is fastened to a respective side wall of the housing with an adjustment knob **25**. The adjustment knob may be loosened slightly allowing the angular position of the housing to be varied relative to the stand to selectively redirect hot air flow. The knob is then re-tightened to secure the housing in the selected orientation.

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As is now readily apparent, the present invention provides a uniquely designed device that more effectively dries a bather. The convex, arcuate front wall allows the device to panoramically project heated air to quickly and efficiently dry the bather. Furthermore, the pivotal housing in conjunction with the adjustable louvers allow a user to direct multiple streams of hot air in virtually any desired direction.

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The above described device in not limited to the exact details of construction and enumeration of parts provides herein. Furthermore, the size, shape and materials of construction of the various components may be varied.

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Although there has been shown and described the preferred embodiment of the present invention, it will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art that modifications may be made thereto which do not exceed the scope of the appended claims. Therefore, the scope of the invention is only to be limited by the following